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perspective of the State's history. It is not, and does not purport to be, a history of the different counties of the State, nor does it purport to be a history of the State, except in so far as that is involved in county names" (Preface). This plan explains why Nolan is included in Chapter I; it is to that period that his connection with Texas history belongs. Similarly Stephens and Young are grouped in Chapter XV with other names that became prominent during the Civil War. Had they died before the Civil War, their sketches would have been placed in some other group. Atascosa, Bosque and other Spanish names excluded from Chapter I are included in Chapter XVII because they are geographical terms. This plan of the book also invalidates the remark about the length of the book's title, and the date of the naming of a county may safely be disregarded.

The sketches are good. The introductory paragraphs are good. The grouping of the sketches into chapters is successful in some chapters. In the application of this plan to all the sketches, however, results are produced which in the opinion of the reviewer will always make it a question whether the advantages of such an arrangement overbalance the disadvantages.

E. W. WINKLER.

Davy Crockett. By William C. Sprague. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915. ["True Stories of Great Americans" series.] \$0.50.)

This is a truly interesting narrative of the man whose name is emblazoned upon the history pages of Texas and whose memory is perpetuated through his glorious death in the Alamo.

The book, however, in one or two places, is at variance with events recorded in Texas history. It is regrettable that the author says, on page 146, that "in 1833 the Americans in Texas decided to strike for independence," because, according to Texas history, they didn't. During that year the Texans took steps to obtain separation from Coahuila in order to establish a separate government, but no attempt was made to secure independence from Mexico. Without mentioning dates, the author, a little farther down on the same page, says, "The revolution was now on. The Americans organized a government; Henry Smith was elected

governor, and Sam Houston was made commander-in-chief." Smith and Houston were chosen to their respective offices by the Consultation in November, 1835, and not in 1833, as the book would lead one to believe. The fact that in the same paragraph it is stated that San Antonio was taken December 10, 1835, does not remove the obscurity in dates.

Again, on page 147, the author says the Texas Declaration of Independence was issued December 20, 1835, at Goliad. Nowhere does he mention the Declaration of Independence issued at Washington on the Brazos March 2, 1836. The reader of the book must bear in mind that up until March 2, 1836, the Texans were fighting for Mexico—fighting to preserve the Constitution of 1824—against Santa Anna's usurping power. As none of the members of the Alamo garrison knew independence had been declared, they did not know they were dying that an independent republic might rise from their ashes.

JAMES C. OSLIN.

Martin Ruter. By Ernest Ashton Smith. (Cincinnati: Methodist Book Concern, 1915. Cl. 18mo. Pp. 127. Portrait. 25 cents, net.)

In the pages of this little book is sketched briefly, in broad outline, the character of this pioneer Methodist missionary. Very little is added to the information concerning Ruter's work in Texas, contained in Dr. Cody's article in the *Texas Methodist Historical Quarterly*, I, 7-38, but Professor Smith's chapters on "The youthful itinerant," "The self-taught scholar," "The educational pioneer," "The editor and author," and "The president of Allegheny," give one a perspective that lends a new interest to Ruter's work. The cause of the Texans appealed so strongly to him that in May, 1836, while president of Allegheny College, he tendered to the General Conference his services as a missionary to that country. He crossed the Sabine November 23, 1837, and was claimed by death at Washington on the Brazos May 16, 1838. During the brief period of his ministry in Texas he labored incessantly for the cause of the gospel and of education.

W.